

# Ministry blitz hits Jackson Co.

By Anne McWilliams

Ninety people from around the state joined with forty local residents for a ministry blitz in Jackson County July 17-21.

As a result, 54 children and youths and one man in Jackson County professed faith in Christ before the week was over. The groups led Bible schools for children in eight housing projects (including Carver Village. See story below) and for senior adults in four men repaired and painted a Seaman's Center.

First Church, Gautier, was the scene of a commissioning service on Sunday evening, July 16, for the volunteer teams. Ernest Sadler, director of missions, Jackson Association, preached the message. Monica Keathley, consultant, Mississippi WMU, sang "People Need the Lord."

The blitz was an origination of Rebecca Williams, wife of the pastor, Billy Williams, at First, Gautier; member of the state WMU executive board; and coordinator of multi-housing ministries for Jackson Association. She said that the first blitz, last year, used Acteens only. However, this year the invitation went out to all age groups. Baptist Women, many youth groups, and a few men responded.

WMU organizations that provided a meal for the volunteers included First, Gautier; Arlington, Pascagoula; First, Escatawpa; First, Ocean Springs; and First, Vancleave. Some of the youths spent nights in sleeping bags at the Gautier church. Other individuals stayed in motels, at their own expense.

Attendance in the Vacation Bible Schools, over 300 daily, reached 388 on Thursday. In the nursing home ministries, attendance reached as high as 100.

The four men who worked at the Seaman's Center were Tom Myers and H. C. Green of Prentiss and Phil Hunt and Larry Strawbridge of Gautier.

At each shared meal, the groups would give reports of the day's work, and testimonies. One young boy said, "I have learned that God really loves ALL people."

At the Vancleave supper on Thursday, Rebecca Williams told the volunteers, "Some of you may not know the fruits of this week now, but someone may meet you at the Pearly Gates and say, 'Thanks for going to Jackson County that week in 1989. I'm here because of you.'"

## Volunteers invade Carver Village . . .

Carver Village, housing project on the edge of Pascagoula, is said to be the "high crime area" of the Mississippi coast. Yet, in its two-block area, among 900 black residents, live at least 400 children.

Ten volunteers from Boyle and seven from Gautier blitzed Carver Village with Bible school under a tent borrowed from the state evangelism department. Kids crowded in, up to 120 a day, so the teams returned two afternoons to play games with them. Thursday night such a heavy rain fell that it caved the tent's roof in. However, that didn't stop VBS next morning. Classes took place around a table under a tree, in a breezeway under some stairs, and in a nook shaded by clothes hanging on a line.

Time after time, Tommy Nichols of Boyle would draw aside one or two or three children or youths and explain to them the plan of salvation. Friday morning, as Nichols was witnessing, a maintenance man inside an apartment building was changing light bulbs — and listening to the conversation outside (unknown to Nichols).

Later that day, Nichols was holding a Bible under his arm; he'd promised it to a girl, but she had not returned to claim it. The maintenance man walked up and asked, "Is that a Bible?"

"Yes."

"I'd like to have one."

"Are you a Christian?"

"No."

They sat down on the steps and began to talk; the man confessed he'd been listening and observing at a distance all week. His heart was ready! Within moments, he prayed to receive Jesus.

This was only one of many professions of faith at Carver that week in July.

(More next week)

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 10, 1989

Published Since 1877



"I know the answer," a raised hand signifies. Volunteers from First, Woodville, Biloxi, and Jackson County lead in sidewalk

VBS at Haywood Brooks Homes, Pascagoula. (Photos by Anne McWilliams)



Tommy Nichols and Lauren Bouler of Boyle witness to a group of youths at Carver Village, Pascagoula.



Beating wooden blocks together is the little girl's role in the percussion instrument parade, during VBS at Haywood Brooks Homes.

Volunteers from Boyle and Gautier direct an afternoon of games at Carver Village.

### SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Historical Commission

Nashville, Tennessee

Bible school girls wave goodbye as Bible school closes at Carver Village on Friday. They are loaded down with sacks of supplies. The VBS met under tent, in background, until rain caved in its roof. The bus, at left, Pass Road Church donated for a rolling Sunday School, to open later this year.

# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## Bylaws not important

The final chapter evidently has not been written concerning the switch in nominees from Mississippi for the Home Mission Board by the southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations.

Joe Reynolds, a Houston, Texas, lawyer, was chairman of the committee; but he consistently refused to return Baptist Record calls to him until, as was noted in last week's issue, Associate Editor Tim Nicholas found him at home. He said the matter was not important enough for him to return the calls.

The Home Mission Board's trustee make-up, however, is out of balance as is required by the SBC bylaws. How important that might be remains to be seen. If the bylaws are to be followed, then something must be done. If nothing is done, then the bylaws are of no effect.

The Home Mission Board has 89 members. They are to be divided between those serving in church or denominational positions and those who are not. There are to be no more than two-thirds in either category. At this point there are 61 church and denominational employees on the Home Mission Board and 28 who are not in either category. That makes a percentage breakdown of 68.5 for church and denominational employees and 31.5 percent for others.

Actually, the Home Mission Board, when contacted, came up with figures

further out of balance than that. Their report was 62 church and denominational workers and 27 others. Repeated checks by the Baptist Record, however, consistently came up with the 61-28 figures.

That's only a couple of people off in either direction. But it's off, and are the bylaws to be followed or ignored? If they are to be ignored, how far can we let a matter slide until we begin to pay attention?

Also, of course, the unbalanced board brings us around to the activities surrounding the nominating procedure. After suggesting one pastor, the Mississippi delegation was told that a lay person was necessary to replace the lay person who was rotating off of the board in order to maintain the proper balance. Thus the Mississippi delegation presented the name of Jerry Caffey, a Gulfport layman.

Reynolds told the Baptist Record that the Mississippi delegation did not have anyone to recommend, but that is not the case. Caffey's name was on a supplemental page that was sent to all members of the Committee on Nominations dated June 2. The supplemental page was to let committee members know where vacancies still existed. There were three names on the list, indicating that out of 17 vacancies following the nominating committee meeting, three people had been suggested, leaving 14 vacancies.

Those three were Michael Kenneth Moore of North Carolina for the Executive Committee, Jess Eddie Gandy of West Virginia for New Orleans Seminary, and Caffey. Moore and Gandy were elected. Caffey, a layman, was replaced by Greg Martin of Long Beach, a pastor.

There are no requirements that a layman has to replace a layman on a board. If that were to be the case, some states would be supplying mostly lay people most of the time and others would be supplying mostly ministers. There is a requirement that the boards be kept in balance.

But even after asking the Mississippi delegation to supply the name of a layman in the interest of a balanced board, the committee ignored the layman named and nominated a pastor anyway, leaving the board out of balance.

And the chairman said that it was not important.

It is easy, of course, to assume a pharisaical attitude in such instances as this. The deed is done, and there may not be any way of undoing it. And there is no reason to feel that the person selected for the Home Mission Board will not perform an outstanding job as a trustee. In fact, the advice from this quarter, though contrary to that of some others, is for him to go ahead and serve in that capacity and do the best that he can. He is the elected trustee.

This paper has never complained of

"conservatives." The conviction here is that just about all Southern Baptists are conservative. We have complained about manipulation. This seems to have been a case of just that.

The question that we must ask ourselves, and keep on asking it regardless of who it affects, is whether or not the ends that are being sought are worth going to such extremes as this.

It might seem that this is a small matter in the gigantic spectrum of Southern Baptists' missions endeavors. To allow such conditions to go unnoticed and unreported, however, is to let the manipulators have control of those endeavors. It is the manipulations that are a concern, not the conservative results.

## Guest opinion . . .

## Explaining the action

**Editor's Note:** Because a great deal has been said about the recent denial of appointment by the Foreign Mission Board of an Oklahoma couple, some of it by editorial statements in this paper, we felt it would be necessary to run the following statement by the chairman of the Foreign Mission Board in explanation of that action. With that accomplished this week, we will be printing next week the statement in refutation by the couple's pastor, who, incidentally, is a Mississippi native.

By C. Mark Corts

As trustees of the Foreign Mission Board, we desire that all Baptists have an understanding of the recent decision of the personnel subcommittee not to recommend Greg and Katrina Pennington of Ardmore, OK, for appointment.

The ordination of Katrina was not the primary consideration in the personnel subcommittee's decision not to recommend the Penningtons. Our president, R. Keith Parks, stated the board's position in the July 15 issue of *The Biblical Recorder* (Baptist Record July 13) by saying, ". . . ordination neither qualifies nor disqualifies for missionary appointment." As evidence that this was not the primary consideration, Baptists need to know that this committee has

recently recommended for appointment other women who were ordained. In candidate evaluation, the committee looks at health, theology, proven evangelistic spirit, ability to sublimate one's personal agenda to work with others to achieve shared goals, and many other aspects of life and ministry. After more than three hours of discussion, a majority of the committee came to the conclusion that the Penningtons had placed the issue of her ordination above the fellowship of their church and the broader fellowship of their association. For this reason, and only this reason, the committee decided not to recommend appointment for the Penningtons.

In evaluating candidates for appointment, consideration is given to the many constituencies which will be affected, including the mission in which they will work, the Baptist union or convention of the country to which they are sent, and local churches and individuals with whom they will minister. Much flexibility and adaptability must be exercised in working with other cultures and differing traditions. The committee determined that the Penningtons had not demonstrated these qualities in the handling of Katrina's ordination and had continued to press their point of

view in the face of expressed concerns about division which it could cause and its subsequent effect upon missionary appointment.

The Foreign Mission Board recognizes that any individual discerning God's calling is free to seek ordination, and any church is autonomous to proceed with it. Recently we affirmed our understanding of, and commitment to the autonomy of the local church, but we also affirmed the cooperative approach to missions. While a church is free to exercise its autonomy, it is not necessarily free to impose the effects of that autonomy on all other Baptist bodies. Thus we must weigh how a prospective missionary appointee's ministry will impact the entities with which they must work. In making its decision not to recommend for appointment, the committee made no judgment on either the Penningtons or the Northwest Baptist Church in regards to the ordination. The committee made a decision regarding the ability of the Penningtons to fit into a mission situation in light of the process followed for the ordination. While the Baptist churches of Scotland may have accepted her so long as she was not pastoring, what division might have resulted if the Penningtons were as persistent in seeking the ordination

At the Baptist Record we have a policy that we will review every six months any continuing feature that is not initiated by our staff. For some time we have been using a column designed for teenaged readers called "Powerline." The Baptist Record Advisory Committee has asked that we

try to determine how well the feature is read. For that reason there is a survey form on the page with that feature to give readers an opportunity to respond.

Please note the survey form to be found on Page 7.

our boards and committees to follow their understanding of God's leadership even when they make decisions with which we do not agree. We also trust a sovereign and providential God to work out his will for good in the lives of the Penningtons. We also trust Baptists who believe in the autonomy of the local church and in a cooperative approach to missions to continue to support those who are appointed with prayers, sacrifice, and love.

C. Mark Corts is chairman, Foreign Mission Board. He is from Winston-Salem, NC.

It is not just as an English teacher, a writer, or a lover of the English language that I say that if you want to talk seriously to people who are angry and distrustful, you must speak in the plainest and most direct English possible. — John Holt

Novels are not written; they are rewritten. — F. Scott Fitzgerald

## The Baptist Record

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# MissionsFest Mississippi

## A Foreign Missions Experience

September 8-9

Jackson

**FRIDAY**  
5:00-7:30 p.m.

Registration

5:00-7:00  
Global Walkaround

7:30

Missions Rally

Flag Processional  
Congregational music/Special music  
Welcome  
Response  
"Face the World"  
Time of Intercessory Prayer  
Special Music  
Message  
Time of Commitment  
Benediction

Choir, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Larry Black, director  
Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist State Convention  
Bill O'Brien, executive vice president, Foreign Mission Board

**SATURDAY**

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00-10:00

Convocation

"Missions: The Bible's Central Theme"

We Baptists, the people of the Book, need to keep the mission message of the Bible in clear focus. This seminar emphasizes the clear, constant teaching of the entire Bible that missions is the unifying theme of the Bible.

10:30-11:30

Conferences

Note: All conferences are repeated 1:00-2:00, 2:30-3:30 and 4:00-5:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Being a 'Great Commission' Church

Country Conferences Africa

Asia

Europe, Middle East and North Africa

The Americas

Dollars for the World

Film Festival

How Do You Do Missions Overseas?

If I Want to Serve Overseas?

Missions Around the World

New Directions in Missions

One Little, Two Little, Three Little MKs

Seeing is Believing!

10:30-12:00

Global Walkaround

A unique opportunity to experience firsthand the sights and sounds of missions. You will meet missionaries, hear about their work and learn about other people and cultures, have hands-on experience with computers, hear languages of the world, see video segments and photo displays of missionaries at work. Judi Bell, coordinator

11:30-1:00 p.m. Lunch served from the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Van  
Food prepared by Mississippi Brotherhood

1:00-2:00

Briefing with the President, Keith Parks

Conferences (as listed at 10:30)

Exploring Career Service (one time only)

2:30-3:30

Conferences (as listed at 10:30)

Short Term Volunteer Ministries (one time only)

3:30-5:00

Global Walkaround

4:00-5:00

Conferences (as listed at 10:30)

Nurturing the Future Missionary (one time only)

7:00

Commissioning Service

Flag Processional Combined Choirs

Music

Welcome

Response

Anthem "O, What a Wonder it Is"

Introduction of Missionaries

Testimonies:

Charge to the Missionaries Keith Parks

Charge to the Congregation

Prayer Dedication

Time of Commitment

Benediction

Mike Parks, congregational music director; Graham Smith, choir director

SUNDAY  
Missionaries and staff will be speaking and sharing in churches.

## July gifts

Cooperative Program gifts from Mississippi Baptist churches in July totaled \$1,405,808, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The July amount is \$149,969 more than that given in July of 1988.

Total giving for 1989 from the 2,000 participating churches in the state is \$10,901,557. This is \$825,509 less than the budget goal for the first seven months of the year.

The total 1989 budget is \$20,103,541. If a proportional amount were given monthly, the total for January through July would be \$11,727,066.

# Robinson Street Church continues to be a witness

By Aubrey L. Boone

Baptist Student Union

During the past 12 months these institutions received almost \$60,000 to be used for child care, scholarship aid, help for the needy, and Baptist Student Union work.

We have received reports from each institution stating how the funds are used. These reports are on file in the office of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Boone is executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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## Sunday School to launch People Search in October

Mississippi Baptists will participate in a state-wide People Search and Scripture Distribution project in October. "Here's Hope — Jesus Cares For You" is a nationwide evangelistic effort to reach to hundreds of thousands of lost Americans with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Sunday Schools in Mississippi Southern Baptist churches will mobilize their Sunday School workers and members for a year of concentrated evangelistic outreach, teaching, and cultivative ministry.

The Sunday School is responsible for launching the 1989-90 evangelistic effort with the People Search and Scripture Distribution Oct. 22-29.

Cultivative evangelistic visits will follow the discovery of prospects. "Each prospect should receive a series of cultivative visits leading up to the simultaneous revivals in the spring of 1990," according to Keith Wilkinson, state Sunday School director.

The Baptist Sunday School Board's Holman Bible Publishers has

prepared special marked editions of the New Testament in English and a number of other languages to be used in the visits to homes and apartments. The idea is that Baptist churches in every community will seek to reach the maximum number of homes during the witnessing effort.

A number of associations will provide training for conducting the People Search and distributing scriptures through their Associational Training Schools or Leadership Nights in (Continued on page 5)

## Mississippi stages a first with missions development conference

The first state convention sponsored Church Missions Development Conference was held at Gulfshore on July 10-12. This was not only a first in Mississippi but the first such conference in the SBC.

Ray Grissett, assisted by his staff in the Cooperative Missions division for Mississippi Baptists, designed the conference to be held in connection with the Church Administration Conference.

Conferees came from 31 churches in 25 associations. They began with an overview of church missions development and continued in-depth training for directors, missions survey directors, and project leaders.

Paul Harrell, Brotherhood; Keith Wilkinson, Sunday School; and Ashley McCaleb, WMU, made conferees aware of the "togetherness" and "family approach" in missions.

Out-of-state conference leaders included J. B. Graham, who designed much of the missions development program and wrote many of the resource pieces, and John Budlong, Home Mission Board national missionary for missions development. They were assisted by leaders from Mississippi: Charles Jones, DOM, Sunflower Association, and J. Courtney Selvey, pastor, FBC, Lambert.

Conferee Randy Wilson said, "By putting people face to face with needs and hurts of those that live around them, the council will help the church members get involved in meeting these needs in Jesus' name."

Conferee Dottie Williamson said, "The council, with its different personalities, can sift out the possibilities from the impossibilities so that mis-

sion work will really get done." (Many ideas brought to the Council may not work or cannot be handled by that particular congregation).

Conferee Grady Crowell said, "Through the work of the survey director, the church, will learn of needs in the community."

Next year's conference will be at Gulfshore on July 23-25.



Conference leaders for the First Church Missions Development Conference included, left to right, Courtney Selvey, pastor, First Church, Lambert; Charlie Long, DOM, Sunflower County; John Budlong, Home Mission Board, national missionary for missions development; and J. B. Graham, Home Mission Board, vice president for missions development.

Thursday, August 10, 1989.

# Manifesto: evangelism is primary

By Michael Chute

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — World evangelization leaders will ask Southern Baptists and other Christians to study and respond to a document that the church worldwide could use as a basis for cooperation.

Called the Manila Manifesto, the document was adopted by 4,300 participants at the Lausanne II International Congress on World Evangelization July 11-20 in Manila.

"The Manila Manifesto is a statement of conviction and a call to action," said John Stott, major writer of the document. "The very word 'manifesto' means a public declaration of convictions, intentions and motives. That's exactly what the Manila Manifesto is."

Congress participants from 170 nations hope the manifesto, in conjunction with the Lausanne Covenant, will be used by national Lausanne groups and other Christians for study and action in world evangelization.

The covenant was issued by the first Congress on World Evangelization held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1974.

The Lausanne movement, which has emerged since 1974, has no membership or formal structure, said Tom Houston, a Scottish Baptist and new international director of the Lausanne Committee on World Evangelization.

Lausanne seeks to inform, energize and motivate Christians to plug the gospel into their spheres of influence and develop cooperative networks.

The manifesto deals with topics that emerged in the 15 years since Lausanne I. Issues — such as the Christian lifestyle, gospel and culture, evangelism and social responsibility, the Holy Spirit and conversion — surfaced in Lausanne consultations held since the first congress.

Congress leaders said the covenant "rose out of a particular context in 1974 and should be left in its own integrity," said Stott, president of Christian Impact and rector emeritus of All Souls Church in London.

The covenant and manifesto "don't go over the same ground," Stott added.

The manifesto "tries to address more fully some of the major issues debated during the (Lausanne II) congress."

The Manila Manifesto has two purposes beyond helping Lausanne II participants clarify some points in their commitment. First, it shares with those in the larger evangelical constituency who were absent from Manila what took place during the congress. Second, it addresses the wider Christian community, which includes non-evangelicals.

The initial section of the manifesto contains a series of 21 affirmations which, among other points, highlight the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ and call for continued commitment to the Lausanne Covenant.

Another section deals with the realities of sin, guilt, judgment and the lostness of mankind. The Lausanne Covenant contains no equivalent to either of these sections.

The manifesto also discusses the relationship between evangelism and social responsibility. The Lausanne Covenant makes no attempt to relate the two except in the statement: "In the church's mission of sacrificial service, evangelism is primary."



Central Hills Baptist Retreat staffers

Pictured are members of the 1989 summer missions camp staff at Central Hills Baptist Retreat. These are young people representing 16 college campuses from across Mississippi and volunteers from 6 cities in Mississippi and local workers. They have helped to provide the leadership and support work to make 12 camp sessions possible. The registration total for 1989 is 1,082. There were 902 registered for eight resident camp sessions and 180 for Lad-Dad Weekend Camp sessions according to Dan West, camp manager/director. Once again CHBR assisted the WMU in conducting one week of G.A. Camp. There were 117 girls registered for the week. They will be included in the registration count for Camp Garawa. FRONT ROW: Eddie Outlaw, Silver City, MC; Cary Rushton, Lucedale, Jones; Harold Irby, Senatobia, DSU; Keith Ramage, Houston, ICC; Robert Young, West Point, Florida Southern; Kevin Cooper, Morton, WCC; Dan West, Kosciusko; Jeff Vanlandingham, Mathiston, NOBTS; Darren Miley, Crystal Springs, WCC; Art McElroy, Senatobia, MSU; Robert Pickering, Laurel, Jones; SECOND ROW: Mark Dye, Morton, Hinds; Johnnie Pearl Erving, West; Red Worrell, Ackerman; Agnes Worrell, Ackerman; Frankie Sue Power, Weir; Mae Bertha Sellers, West; Roddy Reid, Edwards, Hinds; Doreatha Love, West; Peggy

Tyler, Kosciusko; Steven Quick, Ellisville, Jones; Tim Crotwell, Morton, USM; Rodney Richardson, Summit, SWMCC; June Shaw, Eupora; Russell Shaw, Eupora; Trey Humphreys, Blue Springs, MSU; Pearl Ferrell, Brookhaven; Quinn Wilson, Amory/Clinton, ICC; George Ferrell, Brookhaven; Wayne Griffith, Monticello; Lynn Mackey, Waynesboro; Johnnie Griffith, Monticello; Irene Smith, Morton; THIRD ROW: David Fuller, Ocean Springs, GCCC; Randy White, Blue Mountain, NEMCC; James T. Wright, Laurel, Jones; Doug Pinkerton, Rolling Fork, MSU; Chris Atkinson, Meridian, Clarke; Michael Moorehead, Louisville, Clarke; Joe Smith, Morton; FOURTH ROW: Jeff Wideman, Amory, ICC; John Price, Raleigh, SWBTS; Scott Mercer, Meridian, Clarke; Chad Caraway, Laurel, Jones; Steve Parten, Pearl, USM; Brian McKee, Pearl, Hinds; Greg Murphree, Batesville, MSU; Steven Hurdle, Oxford, UM; Chad Sauls, Bogalusa/Picayune, MC; Clyde Power, Weir, Euel Nelson, Monticello; Melba Nelson, Monticello. Not pictured are Eddy Shoemaker, Tallulah, MC; Jean Moore, Morton; Chris King, Aberdeen, ICC; Dorothy Felton, West, Ida Felton, West; Mary Ann Barron, Kosciusko; Charlotte Wise, Kosciusko; and Alberta Elmore, Kosciusko.

## "Patchwork world" needs gospel

By Robert O'Brien &amp; Michael Chute

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — World evangelization will succeed only if a "patchwork church," with all its diverse gifts, works cooperatively to reach a "patchwork world," with all its diverse problems.

That message wound like a thread throughout 10 days of the Lausanne II International Congress on World Evangelization in Manila, which drew 4,300 people from 170 nations and from across the spectrum of evangelical Christianity.

What they hold in common, Lausanne II programmers declared, is oneness in Jesus Christ, who can be a common denominator in efforts to evangelize a fragmented world.

William R. O'Brien, a keynote congress speaker, challenged evangelical Christians to join hands "no matter what their race, gender or economic status and pour out the resources they have — material, physical and spiritual — to the end that all persons may hear of Jesus Christ." O'Brien is executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Competition worldwide among more than 22,000 denominations and 20,000 parachurch groups creates problems, O'Brien said: "The validity of one is questioned by the other, resulting in competition and conflict. Within many of these rage clergy-laity battles that siphon spiritual energy. They fail to capitalize on the availability of gifts and commitment that could become the salt penetrating a lost world."

All kinds of Christians with all kinds of emphases make up the Lausanne

movement, which recognizes they must still grapple with diverse styles and biblical interpretations in seeking cooperation, observers noted. It has no membership or formal structure but seeks to energize and motivate Christians to develop cooperative networks to accomplish world evangelization.

Lausanne II picked up the torch of the missionary vision of the first Lausanne Congress, which evangelist Billy Graham convened in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1974 to rekindle the evangelical missionary thrust of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The torch, in fact, became a symbol of Lausanne II. Youth, who carried a flame across 50 nations, lit the Lausanne Manila flame in the opening ceremony. It dramatized the need for younger leaders to take over the work started by older Lausanne I leaders.

Graham underlined the torch-bearing theme when the 70-year-old evangelist cancelled his appearance in Manila because of heavy evangelism assignments elsewhere and the need to conserve his strength.

Another torch-bearing moment occurred when Tom Houston, a Baptist from Scotland and outgoing president of World Vision International, took over from Thomas Wang, a Chinese Baptist, as international director of the ongoing Lausanne Committee on World Evangelization.

The remainder of the Lausanne II congress explored, in 49 subject tracks and 425 workshops, not only who will carry the torch but the many ways it must be carried to accomplish

world evangelization.

Participants focused on the range of issues confronting evangelicals today, from social justice for the world's poor and oppressed to reaching people groups and major cities that have never heard the Christian message.

The world's major cities — breeding grounds for poverty and injustice — will become cesspools which poison nations if Christians fail to evangelize and renew them, Lausanne II speakers warned.

"The world's mega-cities (more than 1 million population) represent the new frontier for missions," said Jimmy Maroney, Foreign Mission Board consultant for evangelism and church growth. "As the cities go, so goes the country — intellectually, politically, economically, morally and religiously." Non-Christian megacities number 145 worldwide, he said.

Narrowing his focus to the world's most restricted nations, he noted, "If we fail to evangelize the cities in these 15 countries, we shall never finish the task of evangelizing the world by AD 2000 or AD 2100."

Lausanne II planners designed two subject tracks on women in ministry and the laity, reflecting an effort to seek ways to empower them to minister and to recognize and encourage their gifts.

That emphasis also reflects a realization that the church must find a way to involve men and women more effectively or get swamped in a growing tide of lay involvement — which refuses to be controlled or diverted into narrow channels — around the world.

**Missionsfest**  
MISSISSIPPI

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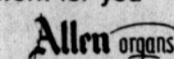
- Dialogue sessions with Dr. R. Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president
- Testimonies and prayer needs from foreign missionaries
- New directions in foreign missions
- Tips on new ways you and your church can be involved in missions
- Information on opportunities for missions service overseas
- Global Walkaround—the sights and sounds of missions, and one-on-one contact with missionaries

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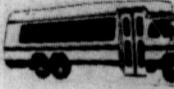
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## Summer missionaries in state

Pictured are the summer missionaries serving in Mississippi now. They are working in six areas of the state. From left, top row, they are Lisa Demand, a student at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., from Waukeet, Iowa; Angela Bartlett, a student at Hannibal-LaGrange College, from Benton, Mo.; Sharon Blevins, a student at Southwest Missouri State University, from Asbury, Mo.; Jewel Hollingsworth, a student at North Greenville College, from Clinton, S.C.; Debra Hendrix, a student at West Texas University, from Dalhart, Tex.; bottom row, Shayne Brandon, a student at Itawamba Community College, from Belden, Miss.; Richard May, a student at University of AR at Monticello, from Crossett, AR; and Jeffrey Roop, a student at Howard Payne University, from Schertz, Tex. Blevins is working in Monroe Association. Demand and Bartlett are working in Pike Association. May is working in Prentiss Association. Brandon is working in Pontotoc Association. Hollingsworth is working in Pearl River Association. Hendrix and Roop are working in North Delta Association.

## Outstanding alumnus sought

Anyone wishing to nominate Mississippi Alumni of the Year of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary may do so by sending recommendations to Bobby Williamson, Secretary-Treasurer, P. O. Box 1497, Brandon, MS 39043, no later than the end of September. All New Orleans Seminary Alumni residing in Mississippi are eligible for consideration and nomination.

The presentation will be made each year at the Alumni Luncheon held during the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Areas of consideration in the selection process include exemplification of the highest standards of Christian conduct; a deep sense of loyalty to the New Orleans Seminary; and meritorious service to church, family, denomination, and community.

In making the presentation, some biographical information should be presented, including significant areas of achievement and service.

## "Top 15" in study awards

Study Course awards earned thus far into the year indicate that many churches throughout the state sense the need for leadership training. They have also determined that there is value in using the Church Study Course system as a means for providing training along with recognition.

Awards by associations are listed below. Only the top 15 associations are listed in this report.

Hinds/Madison — 4,354; Lee — 1,584; Lebanon — 1,559; Rankin — 1,359; Washington — 1,139; Gulf Coast — 1,076;

Northwest — 1,005; Pike — 945; Pearl River — 936; Warren — 922; Lauderdale — 912; Jones — 798; Lowndes — 765; Copiah — 757; and Leake — 700.

## New work on Curacao

CURACAO — Southern Baptist missionaries have established new Baptist work on the island of Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles, a Dutch overseas territory in the Caribbean. Believers already have outgrown the missionary home where they are meeting for Sunday School and worship, reported missionary Allan Murphy of Greenville, Ala. "Our vision is 10 Baptist churches in Papiamento (local language), and fellowships or churches in English, Dutch, Spanish and maybe Portuguese to reach the 170,000 people in Curacao," Murphy said.

## Sunday School to launch People Search

(Continued from page 3)

September. Churches may obtain help in planning the Evangelistic People Search and Scripture Distribution by ordering a Church Guide from the Baptist Sunday School Board. Order forms for the Evangelistic People Search and Scripture Distribution materials and other materials for the Here's Hope simultaneous revivals have been distributed to the churches. Additional order forms may be obtained by contacting either the Evangelism Department or the Sunday School Department at the Convention Board.

"We saw tremendous results from people going out in the Las Vegas area during the Southern Baptist Convention to share an evangelistic witness. This is a kind of thing that can happen in communities throughout the state of Mississippi. In addition to the hundreds of names of prospects for Sunday School and evangelistic follow-up, visitors will have opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Think what could happen if Mississippi Baptists took seriously this effort to share the gospel throughout the state. Revival can result when Sunday School workers begin the process of cultivating visits to unsaved throughout the months prior to the simultaneous revivals," says Wilkinson.

## Richard Land endorses Mennen-Clorox boycott

NASHVILLE (BP) — Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, has endorsed the boycott of the Mennen Company and Clorox Corporation being promoted by Christian Leaders for Responsible Television.

According to CLeaR-TV, the two companies were leading sponsors of sex, violence and profanity during the recent sweeps period of April 27-May 24.

CLeaR-TV is a coalition composed

## Southwestern graduates seven from state

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southern Baptist leader Don Moore told graduates of Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary they must take care of themselves, their churches, and their leadership skills as they prepare to enter the ministry.

"The graces of God that are supposed to flow from God to you to others will never take place unless you take care of you," Moore, executive director-treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, told graduates during Southwestern's summer commencement July 14. The ceremony was held at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Southwestern President Russell Dilday conferred 175 degrees on the class. Twenty-one students received doctor's degrees. The class included seven with Mississippi connections. They are: William Leslie Jaggar, doctor of philosophy; James Perry Manning, Laurel, (home church, Bethlehem) master of divinity; Ralph Randall Robbins, Cleveland, (home church, Immanuel), master of arts in religious education; Charles Allen Roberts, Jr., master of divinity; Johnney Nolen Alford, Madison, master of music; James Kelly Barnett, Magee, (home church, Oak Grove, Mendenhall), master of divinity; Terry Earl Hudson, Florence (home church, Pleasant Hill, Cartage), master of music.

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of approximately 1,600 Christian leaders, including the heads of over 70 denominations and scores of bishops and leaders from nearly every denomination in America.

Land said, "I feel that the efforts of CLeaR-TV deserve support by those concerned with the increasing amount of sex, violence, profanity, and anti-Christian stereotyping being shown by the networks. CLeaR-TV tried for three years to convince the advertisers and networks to change their programming, but their voices went unnoticed."

Land said selective buying is good Christian stewardship. "In this case, it will also send a clear message not only to Mennen and Clorox, but to other advertisers and thus to the networks that the American public wants more clean, wholesome, family-oriented programming and less sex, violence and profanity," he said.

Clorox products which CLeaR-TV is asking concerned individuals to boycott include Act laundry detergent, Clorox bleach, Clorox 2, Formula 409 cleaner, Fresh Scent liquid bleach, Soft Scrub cleaner, Strike household cleanser, Tackle cleaner, Tilex cleaner, Twice as Fresh deodorizer, Wave dry bleach and powder detergent, Fresh Step and Litter Green cat litter, Hidden Valley Ranch dressing, Kitchen Bouquet microwave browning spray and seasoning, Kingsford and Matchlight charcoal, Liquid-Plumber drain opener, and Lucite paint.

Mennen products include Speed-Stick and Lady Speed Dry deodorant, Afta after shave lotion, Hawk cologne, Mennen after shave, Millionaire cologne, Skin Bracer toiletries, Baby Magic shampoo, Protein 29 hair products, and Smooth Legs shaving lotion.

## BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Thursday, August 10, 1989

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## Mississippians witness in Las Vegas

Among many Southern Baptists in Nevada prior to the Convention, for revival and door to door outreach, were the above Mississippi messengers from Jackson County. Left to right are J. D. Cutrer, coordinator of the trip; Greta Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Middleton, Juanita Hammond, and Dean Smith. Also pictured are Mr. and Mrs. David Smith from Magnolia.

Ministering in other areas of Nevada were James Walters, Greg Foster, Gerald Hegwood, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Campbell, all from Jackson Association; Dan Barber, Ralph Pulliam and Dennis Weaver from Gulf Coast Association; Mr. and Mrs. Robbie Howard from Alabama and Lonnie Beyers from Georgia. The group reported 24 professions of faith resulting from this combined effort.

The group pictured served in Overton and Las Vegas while the other team was in Las Vegas and other areas of Nevada.

One Nevada Baptist declared that it was "a beautiful sight to behold" as these, and other Baptists from across the country, arrived for a mass effort in evangelism. Ernest Sadler is executive director of Jackson County Association.

# Stop fighting or stop growing, chaplain tells Southern Baptists

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — If Southern Baptists do not start fighting Satan rather than each other, they will face demise similar to other denominations stunted by infighting, a Navy chaplain said.

"History teaches that every (religious) movement which has restricted and narrowed and purified itself has been destined to become irrelevant to the issues of its day," said Capt. Larry Ellis.

Ellis, a Southern Baptist chaplain from Memphis, Tenn., taught morning Bible studies during the annual Home Missions Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

With tears trickling down his cheeks and his voice breaking, Ellis said:

"For 21 years, I have been your man in what has been many times a hostile environment. I have represented you and I have loved you, and I have identified myself with you when that was not the neat thing to do.

"But being out there away from where you are, I have a different perspective on what's been going on for the last 10 years," he said, referring to the 10-year-old theological and political conflict within the denomination.

"The controversy over how one views holy Scripture is to people out where I am incomprehensible," Ellis said. "They don't understand it. To them all Southern Baptists are right-wing evangelicals.

"Most Southern Baptists have never met a true liberal. And I tell you, if they did, he would be offended if they thought he was a Southern Baptist.

"Our differences are so minor, and

yet we have created untold grief. We have consumed our energies on things that do not profit."

Ellis lamented that because of the controversy thousands of men and women have not been converted to faith in Christ. "Have we lost sight of who our enemy is? It's not our brothers and sisters. Our enemy is Satan."

Ellis recalled similar controversies in the former Northern Baptist Convention earlier this century. After several splits and name changes, the two major remnant groups are the American Baptist Churches and the Conservative Baptist Convention.

At the beginning of its troubles, the National Baptist Convention was about the same size as the SBC, he noted. Today, American Baptists number 1.5 million and Conservative Baptists 250,000. In contrast, Southern Baptists have grown to 14.8 million members.

"I believe we grew much larger because we remained intentional. We didn't get too comfortable," Ellis said.

"The quest for homogeneity, so that all of us are alike, is not only doomed for failure, but were it to succeed, would rob us of the kind of tension that makes us whole."

"The moderates desperately need the fundamentalists to call them back to the faith. The fundamentalists desperately need the moderates to remind them that God is in the practice of putting new wine into new wineskins."

Southern Baptists experienced their best days when they overcame differences for the greater cause of the

kingdom of God, Ellis said.

To oppose Satan, Southern Baptists must regain humility and toleration, Ellis said.

The Pharisees were the ones who allowed Jesus' death, although they were the strongest defenders of the faith, he noted: "But they had one blind spot — their pride in what they were. Because of their blind spot they became unteachable. They became interested in position and power."

To illustrate toleration, Ellis referred to the biblical account of Jesus rebuking his intolerant disciples. They wanted to punish another man who was casting out demons in Jesus' name.

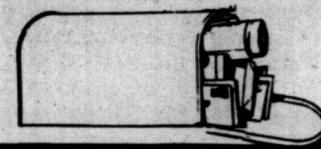
"Please note that Jesus did not suggest that they send a committee down to examine this man as far as his credentials were concerned. It wasn't important what his doctrinal position was. It wasn't important even that he was teaching no error," Ellis said.

"The only issue was, 'Is he opposing Satan and is he identified with Jesus?' That's the rule."

"I'm earnestly waiting for the day when rank and file Southern Baptists are going to look around them and say: 'Enough is enough. We have too much to do.'

"We do not want to miss our destiny. We are the only evangelical group in the world with a large enough membership disciplined in giving, organized, and with the zeal and biblical message to reach the world."

"I tell you truly, Satan himself is absolutely thrilled that we have become a house divided against itself."



## Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

### The gospel truth

Editor:

In response to Ronald M. Rhea's letter in the April 20, 1989, issue, I would like to say "Thank You." Bill Jobe Sr.'s letter irked me, but Mr. Rhea said it better than I could have.

I have always wondered how those people decide which parts of the Bible are true. Like Mr. Rhea, I feel that if one part isn't true, who could believe any of it. For my part, I take it as is, "The Gospel Truth"!

Mrs. Herbert Gross  
Carthage

### The Carey matter

Editor:

As a graduate of William Carey College in 1970, I have been most interested in the developments concerning the college. The account of the findings of the Education Commission brings many facts to the attention of Mississippi Baptists. The report has given us a very different picture of the stability of Carey as compared to the reports we have received through the convention.

It would seem that the action of those trustees last September not to renew Dr. Ralph Noonester's contract was the correct step. In all of the reports, I see the praise given to Dr. Noonester for the great job he has done. In the next paragraph, we are

faced with the very real fact that poor leadership and decision making may cause us to lose the college completely. It seems that we should hold someone responsible for the situation Carey is now facing. We should also thank those few trustees who were willing to place their careers on the line to see that the right things were done.

Our prayers will continue to be with Carey and those who will make the decisions for her in the future. May the Lord give to us more trustees who are determined to do the right thing for the glory of our Lord.

Jimmy Harrington, pastor  
Antioch Church  
Columbus

### Did not refuse

Editor:

I read, as did many Mississippi Baptists, the account of Rev. Roy Clark's tragic incident in the July 27, 1989, Baptist Record.

Even though we are unclear as to the exact events that occurred following this incident as it regards his transportation and medical care, the statement that "Baptist Medical Center refused to take him" casts MBMC in an erroneous and potentially negative position. It has always been our practice, as it would have been in this case, to accept those who

come to the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center upon the admission recommendation of a physician on the recognized medical staff. The Mississippi Baptist Medical Center did not refuse Rev. Clark.

We regret any misperception that may have occurred from this incident and affirm our commitment to the Christian healing ministry to the people of our state.

M. Kent Strum  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Baptist  
Medical Center

### Toilet articles needed

Editor:

Greetings from New York City! We are writing to request your help. Our church is located in close proximity to Port Authority Bus Terminal, Penn Station, and Grand Central Station, which unfortunately serve as home to literally thousands of homeless individuals. Also located in our area are a wide variety of welfare hotels which house homeless families. We have been working heavily with families from 13 of the welfare hotels as well as thousands of the homeless individuals.

We have become aware of a great need for toiletry articles among both the "street" homeless and hotel families. We have an involved congregation, but we can not possibly meet this need alone.

Our request is simply this: Could you please pass this information on to your readers? Below is a list of the trial size articles we need. Our address is 410 West 40th, NY, NY 10018.

Shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, wash cloths, and deodorant.

Thank you so much for your help in this matter.

Perry and Kelley Edwards  
US-2 missionaries

### Support and classification

Editor:

I would like to thank you for your response to the Pennington situation. The Penningtons are wonderful people, and their denial of appointment stands as one of the darkest chapters in the continuing controversy in the SBC. We have believed that if the truth could be told, there would be the possibility of reconsideration of the injustice that has taken place.

Several things can be done by Southern Baptists in response to the situation. First, continue to pray for the Penningtons. This has obviously been a very trying time for them. Second, determine to continue full support through the Cooperative Program. There are thousands of denominational employees, students, professors, and missionaries who are working diligently for the cause of Christ who should not be penalized. Third, become informed and prepare to take the full number of messengers to New Orleans and vote to change the present leadership of the SBC so that corrections of the continuing injustices against people can begin to take place. Finally, write a letter to the Foreign Mission Board in support of the FMB staff and in protest of the improper politicization of the missionary selection process by the trustees.

Another matter involves an inadvertent mistake in the reading of Resolution No. 4 of the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention entitled, "On Personal Ministry of the People of God." After the first "Resolved" paragraph,

the Resolutions Committee accepted from the floor the following insertion.

Be it further RESOLVED, that this Convention reaffirm Article No. 6 of the Baptist Faith and Message on "The Church," especially that part which reads that the church is made up of believers who are "committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible."

In light of Resolution No. 5 passed in San Antonio which rejected the historic biblical understanding of the priesthood of all believers and the present questions raised concerning local church autonomy, I believe this is an important affirmation.

Sincerely,  
William V. Johnson, pastor  
Northwest Church  
Ardmore, Okla.

### Sensitive nerve

Editor:

Thank you for your incisive and straightforward editorial in the August 3, 1989, issue of Baptist Record. You dealt with a sensitive nerve in an appropriate manner and raised some questions that need to be pondered. Doug Dillard's drawing was quite fitting.

We always enjoy reading the Baptist Record and appreciate the front page treatment you give to the whole missionary story of Southern Baptists.

Stanley D. Stamps  
Jackson



# Faces and places



by Anne Washburn McWilliams

## A letter to our newest

Dear Christopher Emmett Brown:  
Already you are a month old. If you think time flies now, wait another five or six decades!

When your dad telephoned to tell me he had a seven-pound boy, he'd been trying for three days to call me, but I hadn't been home. After all, we had not expected you until at least a week later.

To me, it seems strange to call you Emmett, for that was my father's name — your great-grandfather's. I wish you could have known him. He would have loved you! He'd have been proud to know you were named for him.

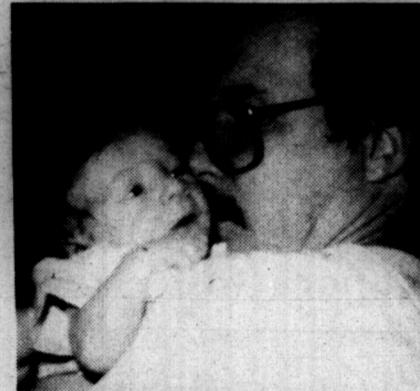
I remember the day your daddy was born, and the day he took his first steps. At first, he was holding my hand. Suddenly he dropped it and walked across the room to his mother, who is my sister, Betty, and your grandmother. Actually, I believe I'm due a little credit for your existence, because your daddy lived at my house while he studied at Mississippi College, where he met your mother.

A long time ago, your other grandmother, Pauline Morse, and I worked

together in the same office. While she was secretary to a Baptist Record editor, she introduced me to her ten-year-old daughter, Susan, and she looked at a picture on my desk, of my young nephew, Tommy. Neither of us dreamed that one day Susan and Tommy would be your parents.

When I first saw you at your house in Baton Rouge, you were asleep in your mother's arms, your satiny eyelids closed, your silky brown hair smooth. Later, while your great-uncle offered you a bottle, you held it with one tiny dimpled hand and my finger with the other. You seemed happy when your dad walked up and down with you, and talked to you, and held you on his shoulder so you could burp. You liked it when your great-grandmother held you. So why did you start crying when it was my turn?

You may have lots to cry about in this world you've entered. Problems and heartaches lie out there waiting for you, I'm afraid, for they manage to miss no one. In spite of them, I want you to know that this world is a wondrous place, full of joys and adventures. I hope that, as your fingers curl



Tom Brown and son, Emmett

ed about mine, so you will reach for and grasp life's wonders.

To me, you are a marvel. God made the moon and the stars and the earth and plants and animals, and then he made man in his own image. You are not just a collection of chemicals, or even a mechanical marionette. You are God's masterpiece, a person with the ability to choose between right and wrong, an immortal being.

Welcome to our family! I'm happy to be called your great-aunt. See you Christmas?

I love you,  
Aunt Anne

## Attala sends team to Tortola

A mission project sponsored by the Attala Baptist Association to the Island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, was completed on July 21. This was a joint venture with the Foreign Mission Board. The purpose of the project was to conduct services in the Cane Garden Bay Baptist Church nightly, and hold Vacation Bi-

ble School for the children and youth of the island.

There were 97 enrolled in the Bible School. Nine older children and seven of the youth received Christ as Savior.

Those who were from the area were the Jessie McMillans, McAdams Church; Dale and Lori Little, Springdale Church; Mrs. Elaine

Cade, Bowlin Church; Carol Carter, B.S.U., Holmes Junior College; and Paul B. Williamson, Jr. First Church, Kosciusko. Also accompanying the team were members of McMillan's family: Mildred Lester, Florence; Juanita Guntharpe and Randy Guntharpe, Pontotoc; Ann Jordan, Germantown, Tenn.; Mrs. Vivian Slayton, Plano, Texas; and Mrs. Vivian Ervin, Wendy Irvin, and Jeremy Edwards, Lynchburg, Tenn.

Williamson, Attala director of missions, reports that the highlight of the trip was seeing this great group of children listening attentively to the Bible stories, singing heartily, and showing great interest in the story of Jesus.

This is the fourth mission project sponsored by the Attala Baptist Association and First Church, Kosciusko, for the summer of 1989.

## Home Board appoints semester missionary

Kimberly A. Graham, a William Carey College senior, has been appointed by the Home Mission Board, SBC, as a semester missionary for fall of 1989.

Graham, who has completed academic requirements but will do an internship in music therapy next spring to complete degree requirements, will serve at the Carver Baptist Mission in New Orleans, La.

Graham has had good preparation for this newest assignment. During three years of service on Carey's BSU Executive Council she served as missions chair and as president. She was in charge of a spring break mission trip 16 Carey students made to Akron, Ohio, this year.

She has also earned recognition in her chosen profession — music therapy. She is vice president of the National Association of Music Therapy Students.

The daughter of James L. Graham, Sr. of Picayune, she is a member of the Carey Chorale, the Carey Carillon handbell choir, and Delta Omicron women's music honorary.

Thursday, August 10, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## Hunger gifts drop to lowest level since 1984

NASHVILLE (BP) — For the first six months of 1989, Southern Baptist gifts to their denomination's program of worldwide hunger ministries have dropped to their lowest point since the same recording period in 1984.

Cumulative figures from the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home mission boards indicate hunger gifts to date stand at \$3,163,411, compared to \$4,076,496 at the same point in 1988, \$3,182,648 in 1987, \$3,877,085 in 1986 and \$6,004,267 in 1985.

Records for the comparable period in 1984 from the Home Mission Board are unavailable, but HMB total hunger receipts for that year were \$617,871.

The Foreign Mission Board received \$2,059,574 during the first six months of 1984.

The FMB reported gifts to hunger relief and development abroad during the first half of 1989 were \$2,652,459, compared to \$3,524,367 in 1988 and \$2,612,285 in 1987. A \$1 million gift to the FMB in January 1988 boosted hunger giving for the first six months of that year.

Contributions for domestic hunger through the HMB stood at \$510,952 through June 1989, compared to \$552,129 for the same period in 1988 and \$570,363 for the same period in 1987.

In 1985, Southern Baptists contributed a record \$11.8 million for combined hunger ministries abroad and at home, shattering the previous record of \$7.2 million in 1984. Hunger giving in 1986 dropped to \$9 million where it leveled off in 1987 and 1988.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

Aug. 19      Associational Officers Training; FBC, Oxford; 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (PD)



## Powerline for teens

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150

## Straight, but lonely

### QUESTION:

There was a time when I used drugs. And about 2 or 3 weeks ago a friend of mine got me to go straight. Well, it was hard, but I did it. And now I'm straight.

Only one thing, ever since I've been doing it straight, I've felt alone. I mean really alone! Not just as everyday alone but a real unearthly alone. I've taken Christ as my Saviour and I keep asking him to help me but I feel alone anyway. Maybe I'm doing it wrong — with Christ, I mean. When I used drugs I never felt so alone.

### ANSWER:

Two things need to be said about your aloneness.

First, your feeling of belonging

in your drug career was an artificial one. It was based on either a depression of your sensitivities or having them artificially stimulated. You were really isolated as a person. Drugs may give you a euphoric feeling but it is not based on any constant facts in real life. Therefore, what you now call aloneness may just be the real thing.

Second, to be a self, a person, who can live with himself alone is the first result of being with Christ. You are a person of value and he cares about you. This makes you a self worth living with even in deepest solitude. Of course, it equips you to live with others as well, but unless you like yourself alone you aren't likely to have qualities others will like.

Anyhow, it's a matter of practice. In a period of a few weeks you can only make a beginning in the Christian life. No skill worth having can be mastered quickly or easily. So get on with accepting yourself. Stay busy. Learn and develop. Make friends. Practice the presence of God.

## "Powerline" survey

If you have teenage readers in your household, please take a moment to provide the information requested in the survey below.

- I have a teenager who reads the "Powerline" feature in the **Baptist Record**.
- My teenager doesn't read "Powerline," but it helps me to know and understand.
- I have a teenager, but "Powerline" is not a factor in our home life.

Please return to the editor, **Baptist Record**, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



Mrs. Kathy T. Anderson has accepted the call of First Church, Starkville, to become music associate.

She will have responsibilities as pianist, bell choir coordinator, children's choirs coordinator and director of the Youth Choir and various ensembles. Mrs. Anderson is a native of Starkville. She earned both the bachelor's and master's degrees in music education at Mississippi State University. She is married to Larry S. Anderson, professor at MSU. Mrs. Anderson has served as organist, pianist, and interim minister of music at various churches, most recently at First Church, Columbus. She has served as a children's choir specialist for the Baptist state convention.

Mack Carney has accepted the call as pastor of Beat Line Church in Philadelphia, Neshoba Association, as of Aug. 1. He served as interim pastor of Hillcrest Church in Lucedale, before going to Beat Line. Carney is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

Linwood Church, Neshoba County has recalled Ronny White as minister of music. White is youth court judge for Neshoba and surrounding counties. Misty Smith has been called to Linwood as minister of youth. She is a student at Clarke College.

A. R. Vaughn has been called as pastor of Homewood Church, Homewood, effective July 23.

Andy Foutz has been called as pastor of Unity Church, Jackson County. He served as a supply for three weeks before being called July 16. He served Larue Church prior to going to Unity.

Frank Kirksey is the new pastor of Cullomburg Church, Silas, Ala. He is former pastor of Enon Church, Batesville.

First Church, Pass Christian, has called Don Beardon as pastor. He moved to Mississippi from Oxford, Alabama.

Wynndale Church located on Springridge Road near Terry, called Charles Gentry as full time pastor, July 9.

Gentry has been the bi-vocational pastor since its beginning in October, 1978, having worked with Video Dynamics of Jackson. The church has grown from 28 to 357 members with a Sunday School enrollment of 377.

Two permanent buildings have been erected, a multi-purpose worship, education and fellowship building in 1980 and an education unit in 1986. Two temporary education units are in use.

Recently the church voted to build a 350 seat auditorium. Construction will begin in August.

Miss Jan Cossitt of the MBCB staff will begin serving as interim minister of youth and activities, Sept. 1.

## Youth speaker

### Christians must seek God's will to win lost souls to Christ

RIDGECREST, N.C. — God has called each Christian to establish the ultimate goal of reaching others through the love of Jesus Christ and following His will, the winner of the youth speakers tournament from Mississippi said.

"Sometimes, following God's will, despite our questions, is the only way to find our place in his marvelous plan," said Weslea Calhoun, a member of Puckett Baptist Church of Puckett.

"Praying for eyes that clearly see, ears that truly hear and a heart that openly understands can reveal remarkable ways to share and witness in our every day routines," she said.

### Appointments announced at Carey

Three recent appointments were announced by interim president, Jim Edwards, as actions are being taken to strengthen college advancement and student support functions at William Carey College.

Donna Wheeler is being promoted to director of alumni relations and special events, according to Edwards. The recent Special Study Report of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Education Commission recommended that Carey strengthen such areas.

Tim Bailey has been appointed as director of student marketing and college relations, in addition to his responsibilities for Carey's continuing education programs. Bailey will be directly responsible for all student marketing, recruiting, orientation, parent programs, admission activities for the undergraduate programs at all three campuses of the college, and other external projects.

Renee' Smith is being appointed as director of corporate relations and foundation gifts. Smith will be responsible for planning and initiating activities designed to broaden the college's corporate and foundation gifts base, preparing grant proposals, and promoting William Carey with business and industrial groups on the Coast.

### Rutland joins staff of Med Center

Danny R. Rutland has joined Mississippi Baptist Medical Center as new development officer. He held a similar position with Golden Gate Seminary, where he served as regional development officer.

His primary area of responsibility is to help provide necessary resources by means of planned giving vehicles such as wills, trust, annuities, insurance, memorials, as well as annual fund activities.

Rutland is originally from Jackson and is a graduate of Mississippi College.

He is currently interim pastor at Castlewood Church.



Rutland

before a group attending Church Training Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, July 15-21.

"Without daily submission to His will, our lives can have no effect on the lost souls around us," she said.

Discipleship training is important to reach the goal of winning lost souls, Calhoun said. "Southern Baptist churches offer effective and education programs which share a common emphasis on discipleship.

"Nothing can be accomplished in God's plan of evangelism until personal commitments are made," she said. "Discipleship begins with the decision to seek and follow God's plan of service."



Mr. and Mrs. Sanders

### Military honors retiring pastor

Members of Military Baptist Church, Sumrall, honored their retiring pastor of 18 years, Earnest Sanders, with a reception on Sunday afternoon, June 4. Sanders was presented a plaque commemorating his faithful Christian service and leadership; and he and his wife, Kate, received a variety of gifts from the church. Mrs. Sanders was honored by the youth of Military for her years of service as teacher and advisor. Doug Benedict, director of missions, opened the reception with prayer. Sanders and his wife, natives of Smith County, have built a home in the Military community and will continue to attend Military Baptist, where he will serve as pastor emeritus.

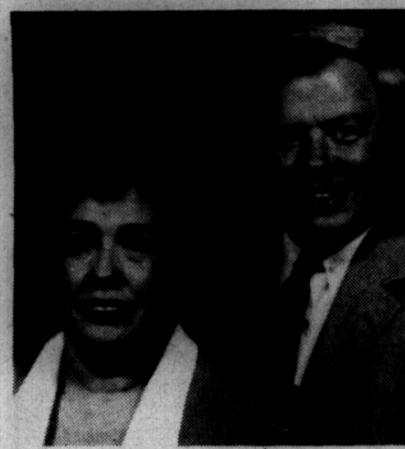
### Covington team leads in mission VBS

Brian Ivey, pastor of Cold Springs Church, Covington County, and a group of workers went to Dennis Town in the same county, July 24, where there is no Southern Baptist church, to teach Bible school. Eighteen children attended the first day; average attendance for the week was 32.

Workers for the school, in addition to Ivey, were Carla Ivey, Charles and Ruby Saulters, Philip Butler, Jackie Johnson, Betty Lott, Mary, B. J., and Mary Ann Graves, Tisha McGrew, Mary Nell Golden, Lydia Fraley, Vicki Spencer, and Rachel Flynt.

Flynt, associational WMU director, enlisted WMUs of several churches to provide materials and refreshments. They were from Calhoun, Rock Hill, Williamsburg, Union North, Mt. Olive, and Willow Grove.

Ivey said, "We saw this as an opportunity to teach children about Christ."



Mr. and Mrs. Stewart

### Eupora will honor pastor

First Church, Eupora, will honor its pastor of 25 years, William S. Stewart, and his family with a Day of Appreciation on Sunday, August 13th.

The day's activities will include Sunday School at 9:45, pastor appreciation service at 11, and a reception at 2.

### Futral to speak at MC summer commencement

Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will be commencement speaker at Mississippi College's summer graduation, Aug. 11, at 2 p.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on campus.

The summer commencement will bring to a close the 163rd academic session at the nation's second oldest Baptist-supported educational institution. There are 207 candidates for degrees.

### Old Silver Creek celebrates 175th

Old Silver Creek Church, Silver Creek, will celebrate its 175th anniversary with homecoming on Aug. 13. Services will begin at 10:45, and there will be dinner on the grounds after the service. No other service will be held on Sunday. Mon. through Fri., there will be revival services at 7:30 nightly. Max Jones, pastor, will be preaching and Deborah Dickens of the Whitesand Church will lead the singing.

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## Youth Night at the Stadium

### Mississippi College Choctaws

VS.

Mc Jacksonville State

**SEPTEMBER 30**

Robinson-Hale Stadium  
and Mississippi College Coliseum

5:15 p.m.

Game at 7:00 p.m.

\$5.00 Per Ticket



#### TICKET INCLUDES:

- Meal before the Game
- Performance by the National Champion MC Cheerleaders
- Entertainment by BSU Contemporary Christian Band, "Priority"
- Four-time Olympian Larry Myricks at halftime

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# Letters From Carey

BY JIM EDWARDS  
Interim President

“... I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6 NAS

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE?

47 People!

100+ Degrees!!

688 Years!!!

\$4 to \$8 Per Hour?

Who in the world would work or teach year after year for an average of \$4 to \$8 per hour? 47 people with over 100 earned degrees who have collectively served Christ and Mississippi Baptists for 688 years. You don't believe me? Check the list below and see for yourself. They all work at William Carey College. A lot of them work 50-60-70 hours a week. Some of the Ph.D.s do earn as much as \$9 or \$10 per hour after teaching for fifteen or twenty years. That's less than many elementary or secondary public school teachers are paid. Why do they work for so little? Because they believe in what they are doing — providing Christian education.

### FACULTY/ADMINISTRATORS

Sarah Burrus	30	Bill Rivero	15
Obra Quave	29	Brenda Waldrip	12
J. V. McCrory	26	Bobby Halford	11
Milton Wheeler	25	Ron Porter	11
Josephine D'Arpa	24	Gene Winters	10
Jim Downey	23	Darlene Wheeler	9
Frances Smith	23	Sydney Bailey	8
Gaston Smith	22	Martin Ehde	8
Ben Waddle	22	Steve Knight	7
Dorman Laird	21	Beth Richmond	7
Rose West	20	Barbara Johnson	7
Marilyn Pound	19	Ed Weldon	7
Hugh Dickens	18	Myron Noonkester	6
Tony Pascale	17	Jeff McLeland	6
James Shivers	17	Steve Smith	5
Tom Lott	16		
Annie Mae Vickers	26	Mary Elizabeth Thompson	10
Donna Wheeler	24	Margaret Tart	9
Nancy McCullum	20	Janice Anderson	8
Joyce Barnett	19	Barbara Bono	7
Earline Herrin	16	Leola Cooper	7
Bob Stutz	15	Nancy McMillan	7
Jo McLendon	13	Alfred Hill	5
Steve Ward	11	Melinda Winstead	5
Beth Riley	10		

### “YOU GOTTA BELIEVE”

Charlie Waters used to scream at his team mates — You Gotta Believe! What team mates? The Dallas Cowboys in some of their great years.

Charlie was one of the most underrated football players around for years. But he believed. He believed in himself. He believed in others and Tom Landry, his coach. Charlie was so motivated by his beliefs that he could block punts or intercept passes or make shoestring tackles and turn defeat into victory in seconds. He inspired everyone with his beliefs. The crowds in Texas loved Charlie Waters when he'd scream — you gotta believe!! — and then do something incredible that his natural talent would say was impossible.

If you look objectively at the athletic program at William Carey over the years, you would probably conclude some of our best investments have been made by supporting the student-athletes who have come to the College, graduated, and become leaders in their communities and churches. Sure, you can cite a number of exceptions — some we aren't proud of at all. But over the long pull a lot of the investments in young men and women athletes have been underrated in terms of results.

Do we spend too much? Maybe, but Carey spends a lot less than many of our competitors and has had unbelievable success within NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) District 30 and on the regional and national levels as well. During the past seven seasons, the men's basketball team has won six NAIA District Championships while also posting six 20-plus win seasons. Top twenty rankings, All-America players (both athletic and academic) and national tournament appearances have been common occurrences during this time.

Baseball has continued its dominant play having won ten district championships in the past fifteen years and several players have gone on to play professional baseball after finishing at Carey. The women's basketball team has had several excellent seasons and has produced two first team All-American players and one Academic All American. The men's soccer team, located at Carey on the Coast, has won two district championships and one area tournament during their three years of existence. Men's tennis has produced one All-American player (1998) and the program is always very competitive.

The William Carey College Intercollegiate Athletic Program is very successful, highly visible and committed to excellence, both athletically and academically. During the past decade, 81% of the student athletes who finished their playing careers at Carey have graduated. Intercollegiate athletics is an integral part of most student lives while attending William Carey, not to mention the positive affect it has on faculty, staff, and the community.

Can we improve on some aspects of our student-athletes living and playing for William Carey? Yes and we will. In the meantime, give Steve Knight and Bobby Halford, Doug Stovall and our other coaches credit for turning out some Charlie Waters types. They believe in Carey and what it stands for. They also believe in Philippians 1:6.

### “MIRACLE IN NEW ORLEANS”

A year or so ago, closing the Nursing School in New Orleans would have been a “relatively easy” economic decision. It would have been a tough and traumatic academic decision for students, faculty, and alumni. Faculty were leaving. Students were angry and filing lawsuits. Quality was down. Cash flow drains occurred in most years based on heavy investments by Mississippi Baptists.

Move over Charlie Waters! The results have been miraculous. Doubling and tripling of student enrollments. A positive and hard working faculty. Positive cash flow — several hundred thousand dollars of receipts over expenditures — helped greatly by our contract with Baptist Hospital. Dean Barbara Johnson and Tim Bailey (recruiting) made us believe!

Yes, most of the students still stay in Louisiana. Yes, we still have to absorb the growth, improve quality, and justify long-term investments in New Orleans. But the miracle of covering several weeks payroll for the entire College out of the positive cash flow from our Nursing School suggests, No, we won't change things precipitously. Besides, we have an important moral and legal commitment to our faculty and students. Many of those students will join their predecessors in graduating and becoming Christian nurses serving a hurting world. Sounds like the Great Commission to me.

### “WHY COME BACK?”

Twelve months ago, William Carey College was about to enroll the best Freshman Class in years on the Hattiesburg campus. “Honors type students who could make it at Millsaps, Rhodes, Samford, or Stetson,” a faculty member said to me recently, “bright, exciting, spiritually motivated young people.”

Part of the tragedy of our institutional crisis is some of these very capable new students, and others, have believed William Carey won't make it — and they are transferring to other schools. Although it will set us back some, those students will be the losers in the long run. Why? 47 people! 100+ Degrees!! 688 years of serving the cause of Christ through teaching and nurturing thousands of young people. That's why.

What do the students who are returning believe? Read for yourself.

“One very positive aspect about William Carey College is the inspiration I receive from faculty and staff members. Diane Jamison, Director of Student Activities at Carey and a good friend of mine, encourages me to achieve in my study of music and also stay involved in extra-curricular events. Even though I always stay busy at school, I find myself looking forward to returning there between semesters.”

Susan Lofton, Senior  
Music Education Major, Gautier

“One of the things I enjoy the most about William Carey College are the small classes. That is particularly important to me in my field of nursing. I would also have to say that the quality of the nursing program has greatly improved under the leadership of Dr. Barbara Johnson and her faculty.”

Traci Davis, Senior  
Nursing, Mobile, Alabama

“The main reason I am staying at Carey is because I believe it is the Lord's will for me to be at Carey. The main advantage I find at Carey is the excellent faculty/student ratio.

Faculty member, Dr. Walter Brown, has been incredibly encouraging and influential on both a personal and academic level. Administrator, Don Fowler, has been a great help, especially in dealing honestly with any problems which have arisen.”

Bill Hawks, Junior, Coast Campus  
Religious Major, Bradenton, FL

The reason I am returning to Carey is that I like the low faculty/student ratio. The faculty really do care about students. A lot of people helped me enjoy my first year at Carey. Dr. Rose West's classes were very enjoyable.

Eric Dukes, Sophomore  
Pre-Med, New Orleans, LA

“The main reason I look forward to attending Carey this fall is basically the same reason that inspired me to go to Carey last year. I experienced Carey's strong Christian atmosphere and sensed the people are friendly. All of the social and academic transitions seem to be easier and I am also excited about making this year better for club membership and activities.

Dr. Bill Rivero, my psychology advisor and professor, is one of my favorite influences at Carey. He is straightforward about my future, is supportive, and is probably the backbone of the psychology department.

Mary Sadlers, Sophomore  
Psychology Major, Hattiesburg

So students are returning because they believe in our faculty and staff who are committed to quality Christian education almost irrespective of their low salaries. Last Friday, we had 80 new freshmen and transfer students pre-register for the first time on the Hattiesburg campus. Looks like 46 people won't be wrong — again.

P.S. Next Week. Carey alumni. A Flock of Eagles.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## Courageous choices: the commitment of Ruth

By Billy R. Williams  
Ruth 1:1-8, 16-18

This week's lesson begins a three-part series in what one writer described as "the most charming book in the Old Testament." Set in the turbulent period of the judges, the book of Ruth is a quiet story of ordinary people in whose lives God worked in extraordinary ways as they trusted him!

The focal passage for the week demonstrates how total commitment to the Lord gives persons the courage to make difficult choices that honor him. In verses 1-5 the tragic circumstances that confronted a godly family of the tribe of Judah are listed.

The first crisis that Elimelech and his family faced was the relocation of his family from Bethlehem to the neighboring land of Moab due to a famine (verse 1). Many of today's families have experienced the trauma of moving and they also know the value of a stabilizing faith.

Elimelech and his family intended to be temporary residents in Moab as suggested by the word "sojourn" (to live as a stranger). Those



Williams

### UNIFORM

temporary plans were changed, however, by their second crisis — Elimelech's death: and the family remained for ten years. His death was a tragic event for the family members, for in that day the husband/father was essential to the family's emotional and financial support. How difficult it must have been for Naomi to be a single parent in a strange land. Does the church provide the spiritual, emotional, and physical support parents without partners need today?

Sometimes afterward, Naomi's sons married two women of Moab, Orpah and Ruth, with whom Naomi developed deep and loving relationships. These marriages to Moabites were not prohibited, as were those to Canaanites (Deuteronomy 23:3).

Tragedy was to strike for the third time when Naomi's son, prophetically named Mahlon (sickly) and Chilion (wasting away), both died (verse 5). Without sons or grandchildren, Naomi had no one to care for her. She also, because of the customs of the day, had the responsibility of providing for her daughters-in-law. Can Naomi be condemned for supposing

that the hand of the Lord had been lifted against her (verse 13)?

The report of improved conditions in Judah signaled new hope for Naomi. The ending of the famine was clear evidence of God's special intervention (verse 6). Naomi gathered her meager belongings and with her daughters-in-law began the 50 to 60 mile journey to Judah.

Several beautiful truths concerning Naomi are evident in verses 8 and 9. First, Naomi's noble character is revealed. Even though her only hope for grandchildren lay in her daughters-in-law marrying Elimelech's relatives, Naomi knew that Orpah and Ruth had a greater chance of remarriage among their own people. So true to her nature, she sought the best for them by encouraging them to return to their homes (verse 8).

Second, Naomi's love for her daughters-in-law is obvious in her prayers for them. She prayed that their faithfulness to her and their husbands might receive an appropriate reward — the unfailing goodness (deal kindly) of God (verse 8). Naomi also prayed that Orpah and Ruth would find the stability (rest) that a new husband would supply (verse 9).

Third, Naomi's faith in God is evident. The fact that she used the personal name of the God of Israel rather than the general word "God"

(Elohim) or "Chemosh," the name of the chief god of the Moabites, is significant. Naomi knew but one God, and she believes that he could work in Moab as well as in Judah.

At first both daughters-in-law refused to leave Naomi (verse 10). Finally, persuaded by Naomi's sensible counsel, Orpah returned to Moab (verse 14).

However, Ruth would not leave when Naomi used Orpah's example as an inducement (verse 15). Ruth replied with a classic expression of faithfulness (verse 16) which is composed of a request to Naomi that she cease asking her to leave, a statement of a five-fold commitment to Naomi, and an oath by Ruth that only death would terminate their relationship. Ruth then called upon her new God to bring judgment on her if she failed to keep her resolution (verse 16 and 17). When Naomi saw the depth of Ruth's resolve, she said nothing more, and together they made their way to Bethlehem (verses 18 and 19).

The story of Naomi and Ruth is a reminder of the costliness of total commitment to God and to others. It will likewise cause the Christian to carefully weigh choices, for often, as in the case of Ruth, these decisions will determine the direction and destiny of one's life.

Williams is pastor, First, Gautier.

## God's word is meant not to be admired, but obeyed

By Randall L. VonKanel  
Psalms 1:1-3; 119:97-106

A developing relationship to God presupposes a growing response of obedience to the lordship of Christ. Christians who "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord" predicate their lives upon the authority of God's Word.

In a world that offers a myriad of ways to success and happiness, obeying God is found to be the only choice that leads to life. Christians should heed the words of Jesus, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). The psalmists in our lesson focus on our essential need to know and obey God's Word.

Two psalms, Psalm 1 and Psalm 119, both acknowledged to be "wisdom psalms," provide the focal passages for the lesson. Psalm 1 prefaches the whole of the collection of psalms

VonKanel

with an introduction to the two basic choices of life: one can choose to obey God and be blessed; or, one can choose to reject God and his authority and suffer the consequences. "My way" or "God's way" appear as the divergent paths for cursing and blessing, respectively. Fred M. Wood stated that "this psalm stands at the entrance to the Hebrew hymnbook as a signpost, giving clear guidance as to the way persons should conduct their lives." Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, encapsulates the psalmist's commitment to obey the Word of God.

In Psalm 1:1-3, the psalmist describes the blessed state of a godly man. "Blessed" refers to a life of happiness. Literally, "how happy is" the person who lives the godly life or responds to the "law of the Lord." With a triple parallelism (v. 1), the writer amplifies the truth that happiness is not to be found in the way of godless society. Living according to the

"counsel of the ungodly" does not produce a life pleasing to God. God only blesses that which pleases him, thus, ungodliness is not blessed. The choice to live independently of God's will, "doing your own thing," is always a choice away from God's blessing.

In verses 2-3, the primer for blessedness is stated as a "delight" for the word of God. When we long for the will of God in our lives, considering his counsel far better than any other, then we will respond in obedience and realize the results of choosing God's way. The analogy of a fruit-bearing tree abundantly supplied with water (v. 3) illustrates the promise prosperity of the obedient life. A prosperous Christian life is the abundant Christian life, a life of sufficiency and service through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. Obedience to God's Word opens the door to blessings.

In Psalm 119:97-106, the psalmist reiterates the importance of obeying God's law. He extols God's Word with numerous references such as "law," "commandments," "testimonies," "precepts," "word," and "judgments." In verses 97-100, the psalmist speaks of the benefit

of understanding that comes from a knowledge of God's revelation. Knowing God's Word facilitates a wisdom for life far surpassing the mere learning of man. Because of the value of wisdom, the psalmist cried, "It is my meditation all the day" (119:97). Not only did the psalmist meditate, he obeyed the Word. His richer understanding for life came because he was obedient to what he knew (v. 100).

In verses 101-106, the psalmist testified of the change of behavior that accompanies a faithful response to God's Word. God is to be obeyed; his word is to be honored; his truth is to be desired above "every false way." When the Word of God, his will for our lives, becomes our beacon of hope, we will desire to obey.

Psalm 119:105 has been a favorite of mine since childhood. God's Word will light my path! But, you know, even as a child using a flashlight on a trail during an overnight camping trip, I learned that the light would move ahead of me only as I "obeyed" the light I had. God's Word, his truth, is not meant to be admired or even simply learned, but obeyed.

VonKanel is pastor, First, Hattiesburg.

## God leads as Israel prepares to leave

By R. Raymond Lloyd  
Numbers 1:1-10:10

"Numbers" derives its title from the two numberings of Israel appearing in chapters 1-4 and 26. However, the title given in the Hebrew Bible "in the wilderness" (1:1), the first distinctive word in the book, is much more descriptive of the historical setting and nature of the whole book. The setting is at Sinai and deals with the period of preparation (20 days — 1:1, 10:11) for the pilgrimage to the Promised Land.

I. The military census. 1:1-3. Organization and structure were imperative to an orderly march across the desert wastelands of Sinai. To Kadesh Barnea alone was approximately 200 miles of the most barren, mountainous, arid wastelands imaginable. To get lost, discouraged, rebellious, was not difficult. A strong leader was an imperative. The book opens with the word: "The Lord spoke to Moses," a phrase occurring some 80 times in the book. This suggests the importance of Moses, and the fact that he was the one set apart by God to be his representative, his shepherd, the mediator of his word among the people.



Lloyd

### BIBLE BOOK

The encounter took place "in the tent of meeting," a frequently used phrase throughout the Old Testament to describe the Tabernacle. This portable tent was not only the place to which Moses came to meet with God, but the place to which Israel came for the purpose of learning God's will, and learning to live as a unified people under God's direction.

Worship structure came first; then a military structure for the purpose of providing security on the march. The instructions were given to take a census (vs. 2) of all the "congregation" (same root as tent of "meeting," depicting a people called to an encounter with, and a purpose for, God). The method of counting utilizes a variety of terms. Within a tribe were several "families," each family would include several "father's houses," and within each house a number of "males." In addition, one person from each tribe was to work with Moses and Aaron forming a committee to provide senior leadership. One person cannot do it all. Leadership must be shared — in Israel, and in the church. Give thanks today for the leadership in your church — S.S., C.T., W.M.U., Brotherhood, committees, deacons, and all others. These make possible victory over the enemy as they

"go forth to war" (v. 3) against evil.

II. The ministerial service. 3:5-9 (3:1-4:49), 8:20-22 (8:5-26). Specific instructions are here given regarding the Levites. No part in the structure for military service is given to them, for they are set apart by God to serve him at the tabernacle. They have a special ministry for which they were to be totally dedicated — "They are wholly given unto him . . ." (vs. 9 literally "given, given," the verb is repeated providing emphasis).

Moses and Aaron were Levites. It is virtually impossible to define the relationship of priests and Levites. Suffice it to say that just as other tribes were organized for military action, so the tribe of Levi was given spiritual tasks to protect Israel from exposure to pagan deities along the way, and to hold high before the people the centrality of God's presence.

While all Israel has been called to be God's servant, these are called out by God to minister to the whole congregation of Israel. To be sure, the whole church is to be God's servant, but God has also consecrated certain ones to minister to the needs of the congregation. Give thanks for your spiritual leaders.

We return to the Levites in chapter 8. Verses 20-22 summarize the preceding verses. Before the Levites can function they must be cleansed from sin, and then they become the substitute for all the firstborn of Israel (vss. 17-18). They

become a shield or buffer to all Israel from any plague (vs. 19 — same word used in Exodus to describe that which caused the death of the first born in Egypt who were outside the blood — Ex. 11). They are literally protecting Israel from death. The central truth here, however, is that before any servant can be effective in ministry he must be clean from sin before the Lord.

III. The moving cloud 9:15-23) Israel is now ready to break camp. Where and when should they travel? In the daytime a cloud would lead them; at night an appearance of fire hovered over the tabernacle. When the cloud lifted, Israel broke camp and followed. When it nestled down, they made camp. The basic message is that this cloud was a sign to Israel of God's presence among them. As Israel waited for the cloud to move — (vs. 22, KJV "year" is more interpretation than literal translation) — it is an expression of tremendous faith — faith that God was leading them.

The real impact of this to Israel comes from the fact that no one could survive the scorching sun of the desert day after day without some protection from its deadly rays. God's provision of protection, by means of the cloud, was a realistic evidence of his presence.

God still "leads his dear children along." His Holy Spirit is the all-sufficient guide. Oh, for a faith — like Israel's — to trust and follow!

Lloyd is pastor, First, Starkville.

## Sinai

# THE VILLAGE VIEW

## The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027, (601) 922-2242

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**Mar. 9, 1989 -  
May 19, 1989**

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Ms. Clarice Daughtrey  
**Mrs. Carrie Hunter**  
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**Raymond Jackson**  
Herman, Sheron & Christopher Coats  
**Robert Lee Jackson**  
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**Mrs. Lewis Jenkins**  
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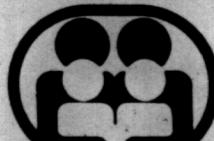
## SHARING ACCREDITATION NEWS!

Executive Director Paul N. Nunnery is joined by immediate past President Jimmy Hollingsworth in acknowledging with exhilaration the notification of full accreditation of Village ministries by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc. The Village received the highest available score on 241 of these standards and the second highest score on the remaining 10, together with special commendations reciting "The Council wishes to take special note of the agency's impressive record."

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**Mr. Tommy Nail**  
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(To be continued)

# Revival dates

**Fellowship (Simpson):** Aug. 13-18; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., with dinner at church; Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m.; George Meadows, pastor, First, Florence, evangelist; Don Ainsworth, music; W. P. Blair, interim pastor.

**First, Tunica:** Aug. 13-17; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Cecil Randall, former professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Hugh Plunkett, Clarksdale, music; Dennis Trull, pastor.

**Rocky Springs (Yazoo):** revival and homecoming begins on Aug. 13 with morning worship at 11 a.m., homecoming dinner at noon; afternoon services at 1:30; evening services Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m.; evangelist, Richard King, student at New Orleans Seminary; Jimmy Kettleman, pastor.

**Concord (Tippah):** Aug. 13-18; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 7:15 p.m.; Wiley Gann, pastor, Potts Camp, evangelist; Paul Reed, Bissell, Tupelo, music leader; W.G. Dowdy, pastor.

**Concord (Choctaw):** Aug. 13-18; Sunday, homecoming, Billy Walton, Ackerman, will speak at 11 a.m., lunch, and singing by His Witness; Aug. 14-18, services, 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Ken Nicks, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Carey Myers, pastor.

**Hebron (Yazoo):** Aug. 13-18; Sunday, homecoming, Sunday school, 9:45; morning worship, 11, dinner on the grounds, afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Jim Pender, pastor, Merrill Church, Merrill, Oregon, evangelist; Karen McGraw, music director; Bill Hutto, pastor.

**Calvary, Canton:** Aug. 6-11; Sun., regular time, 7 p.m.; Zack Womble, Béulah, Magee, evangelist; Leon Stewart, pastor.

**Eastside, Pearl:** Aug. 13-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Greg Johnston, pastor, Union, Tylertown, evangelist; Bobby and Lollie Ready, full-time music evangelists, Baton Rouge, La., music; Dennis Dunn, pastor.

**Montgomery, Summit:** Aug. 13-17; Sunday services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; evening program at 1:30 p.m., featuring the music of Jubilation; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Barry Foster, evangelist; John Wells, music; Tony Chuter, pastor.

**New Providence (Copiah):** Aug. 13-18; 7:30 p.m.; Jackie Banes, interim pastor; John McBride, Memphis, evangelist; Jackie Banes, music.

**Zama (Attala):** Aug. 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Setterwhite, evangelist; Gerry Sanders, music evangelist.

**Oakdale (Rankin):** Aug. 13-16; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. services on Sunday; 7:30 p.m. services Mon.-Wed.; Terry Long, First, Berryville, Ark., evangelist; Charlie and Lisa Martin of New Orleans, music evangelists; Danny Berry, pastor.

**Beulah (Simpson):** Aug. 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m., lunch at noon; 7 p.m. nightly; Greg Womble, Houston Road, Laurel; Lavon Gray, music evangelist, West Union, Carriere; Zack Womble, pastor.

**First, Verona (Lee):** Aug. 13-17; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Delton Beall, pastor, First, Forrest City, Ark., preaching; James Francis, minister of music and youth, West Heights, Pontotoc; David E. Hamilton, pastor.

**Holly Springs (Marion):** Aug. 13-18; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; W. C. Burns, evangelist; Otis Broom, Jr. and Mack Davis, music; James L. Yates, pastor.

**Fredonia, New Albany:** Aug. 13-16; rally on Sat., Aug. 12, at 6 p.m.; services, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; services from 12 to 12:30 p.m. with a complimentary luncheon; speaker, Sam Wolfe, full-time evangelist, Huntsville, Ala.; music, David McClure, minister of music at Fredonia; H. Gregg Thomas, pastor.

**Star Church:** Aug. 13-18; homecoming Sun., with dinner on ground and afternoon service; services 7:30 each evening; evangelist, Bob Hamblin of Tupelo; music by R. L. and Beth Sigrest of Yazoo City; David Grant, pastor.

**Salem (Hinds-Madison):** Aug. 13-16; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Woodrow Clark, interim pastor, evangelist; homecoming, Aug. 13, with special service at 11 a.m.

**First, Byram:** Aug. 13-16; Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Howell, pastor, Fair River, Brookhaven, evangelist; Bob Jones, minister of music, Alta Woods, Jackson, musician; Carl Prewitt, pastor.

**Duncan Hill, Calhoun City:** Aug. 13-17; 7 nightly; Edd McCafferty, pastor; Sun., pack a pew; Mon., bring a friend; Tues., senior adults; Wed., family night; Thurs., youth night.

**Gatesville (Copiah):** Aug. 13, Speaker - Barry Ward; Phil Mullens, pastor; song director, Roland Dear.

**White Sand, Prentiss:** Aug. 13; morning service, 11 a.m.; Stanley Stamps, foreign missionary, speaker; dinner on the grounds; afternoon song service, 1:15; Billy Greene, pastor.

**Darlove (Washington):** Aug. 13; 10:30, morning worship; John West, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds; an afternoon service led by Harvest Time Gospel Singers; Robert White, pastor.

**Juniper Grove, Poplarville:** Kenneth Rhodes, director of missions, Pearl River Association and former pastor, preaching; 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; no evening service; David Raddin, pastor.

**Pearlhaven, Brookhaven:** Aug. 13; Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Doug Broome, former pastor, message, 11 a.m.; Frank Stidell, music; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing, 1 p.m.; Johnny Sykes, pastor.

## Homecomings

**Temple (Grenada):** Aug. 13; 10th anniversary; 1 p.m. service; Clarence Cooper, preaching; Miss Patti Bonner, Quitman, special music; James Edwards, former pastor, preaching that morning; Stephen John Huber, interim pastor.

**Hebron (Grenada):** Aug. 13; W. P. Miley, 11 a.m., message; Gospel Messengers of Water Valley for 1 p.m. singing; Ben McDowell, pastor.

## Devotional

# Tainted but sainted

By Ken Alford

"Begat" passages in the Bible are usually boring. When we come to such a list of names, we usually skip on to a more inspirational portion of Scripture. However, to do so with the genealogical table of Christ as presented in Matthew's Gospel is to miss a precious nugget of God's truth for us.

One's pedigree in the Scriptures usually included only men. Matthew, however, lists for us four women in the genealogy of Jesus. If the tax collector/biographer had ransacked the pages of the Old Testament looking for suitable female ancestors of Christ, he could not have picked any more unlikely candidates! Included in his list are: Tamar (who had seduced her own father-in-law); Rahab (who had been a harlot of Jericho); Ruth (who had been a morally pure but pagan Moabitess); and Bathsheba (who had committed adultery with David).

While we believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and had no sinner's blood running through his veins, it is encouraging to know that he was not ashamed to be born into a family tree that included such "bad apples"! Though they were stained with sin or separated from God's covenant people, privileges, and promises, those ladies in the lineage of our Lord became recipients of God's amazing grace. They were tainted but sainted!

If such sinful and separated sisters could wind up in the messianic line that brought the world its Savior, then surely there is hope for us all! Those "adopted" grandmothers of Jesus tell us that God can fit all of us into his scheme. He finds his servants among those individuals from whom the most orthodox would shudder away. Thank the Lord for his genealogy of grace which teaches us that sinners and strangers are welcome in his family!

Alford is pastor, Morrison Heights, Church.



## Nettleton burns note

First Church, Nettleton, recently had a note burning ceremony for the \$339,000 sanctuary that was completed in September, 1985. The TOGETHER WE BUILD program was used and \$200,000 was borrowed.

The building committee was Ben Coggins (chairman), J. O. Cook, John W. "Dub" Harris, Glyn Hester, Florine Rogers, Suzanne Warfield, and Catherine Whitlock (secretary).

Jim Armstrong is minister of music. George C. Johnson, Jr. is pastor.

Pictured, left to right, are Eddie Sullivan, Jim Armstrong, and George Johnson.

## Pastor recovering from accident

Paul Williamson, director of missions for Attala Association, is recovering at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center following injuries received in a head-on auto collision near his office July 28. The impact broke his pelvis, has a crushed hip socket, and shattered one leg below the knee.

## Pascagoula will present "Elijah"

First Church, Pascagoula, is inviting church choirs to the presentation of "Elijah" presented Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. David Ford will be portraying Elijah, and Clint Nichols will be Obadiah the prophet. Ford and Nichols will be joined by Suzy Haynes of Biloxi as the angel of the Lord and Rhonda Hood of Gulfport as Jezebel. The work will be accompanied by an orchestra consisting of strings from the University of Southern Mississippi and winds from the Pascagoula area. An offering will be taken. Groups are urged to call the church at 762-2343 and request special seating. Gary Anglin is the minister of music, and Dennis Johnsey is pastor.

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